

mistakes and weaknesses of children should prevail.

Watchfulness, patience and firmness are some of the necessary qualities of the S. S. teacher that he may control and direct the growing energies of the child; watchfulness to detect the first buddings of sinful desires. Patience must have her perfect work. She teaches us to bear the ills of life. Much more should she teach us to bear with the waywardness of children. It often becomes necessary to use authority; and in such cases, firmness and unyielding integrity are in great demand, in order to check the irrational desires, and turn them into their proper channels. Children soon lose confidence in one who is not firm.

Children are sympathetic and they are the objects of sympathy. In all their weaknesses and follies, they not only need the mantle of charity to hide their seeming depravity, but they need sympathy; not to encourage their wrong doing, but to lift them up from weakness and irresolution, to strength and determination.

Children have trials and these may all be necessary to discipline; but they will sink beneath the load unless assisted or protected. Teacher, stand by the children, in those hours of temptation, and see that the world and the passions do not overcome them. Children have a hosts of evil influences to struggle against, and their unassisted powers are unequal the task, and they often fall an easy prey to vice.

Akron, Ind.

#### SPARKS FROM THE FORGE.

BY J. H. PALMER.

The man who makes his wife chop her own wood should not do all the talking at prayer-meeting.

If any person says to you, "I am a fisherman, but never caught any fish," you could scarcely call him a fisherman. Go thou with the fire of God and fling it among the stubble, and the stubble will burn.

Give some people a good blowing up and they will do the exploding.

We have sometimes been obliged to the world for what it has done to inconsistent professors. Pointing them out.

When Jesus looked upon the fig tree and found no figs, He knew the tree was making a false pretention. Figs always appear before the leaves. The tree had all the necessary outward pretentions but lacked the fruit. Brother, have you only the leaves?

Many things darken the eye of the soul—one of the most common is prejudice.

All men boast of their bravery, but few speak of their cowardice.

Some people get discouraged because they can't show up like some. Think of the tortoise and the hare.

Some are called shepherds, some sheep but every now and then some shepherd gets butted out of the pasture.

Huntington, Ind.

#### THE YOKE OF CHRIST.

BY A. J. BLOUGH.

In Mathew xi, 29, we have the following language: "Take my yoke upon you," etc. A yoke is something that all the pioneers of this western country are familiar with as were the people eighteen hundred years ago. When this language was spoken, Christ always took something the people were familiar with to demonstrate a truth; therefore the yoke. It is not necessary to describe how the yoke was made. But what is its design; first, it is used to tie two parties securely together to do work, and the better they are mated the better the team. If one is stronger than the other it makes an unequal team. If one is balky it makes no team at all. If one pulls off to one side all the time, it makes a poor team, and the yoke is sure to gall. And again we can not put two yokes on at the same time, as the animal is not made that way. Christ saith we shall take his yoke on us. Only one end of it; he is always ready to take his end of it; and he further saith the burden is light. If we keep in the narrow road it is light but if we pull all the time to one side it is sure to gall and makes the burden heavy. The road from earth to heaven is straight, no switching off place. We cannot throw our end down and drop in to the lodge room, for Christ will not go with us in there; he is not wanted there; his name is not mentioned there;

he don't believe in secrecy. If you go in there you must throw Christ's yoke down before you pass the first sentinel. But there is that other person who is always ready with his Iron yoke, and he is not particular who comes just so he pays his initiation fee and swears to keep every thing secret that is going on in there. But do you think Christ will wait till you are through and come out? I am afraid not. you know it is written we can not serve two masters. There are many places in this world where you can not take Christ with you. He does not go to the saloon, or the theater; and I am afraid he is not found at our political meetings and these little church festivals. Well, they are only a little innocent entertainment to raise a little money for—well, the good cause. The motive may be good, but is the act justifiable? Paul thought he was doing God's service in persecuting the church, but did that make it so? nay verily. I never witnessed a church dedication in my life that was not dedicated to the worship of God and that only, but how often is it made a house of merchandise. If you can take Christ with you to the lodge, all right, go. But if not, don't drop your end of the yoke, for all you get there. If he goes with you to the theater and festival, go; if not, don't drop the yoke.

Waterloo, Iowa.

Said the Duke of Wellington to an officer of engineers, who urged the impossibility of executing the directions he had received: "I did not ask your opinion; I gave you orders, and I expect them to be obeyed." Such should be the obedience to the divine will of every follower of Jesus. The words which he has spoken are our laws, not our judgments or fancies; and at our Master's bidding we must advance through flood and flames to do them, even if death itself be in our way.—*Spurgeon.*

Christians find God's service to be perfect freedom, his yoke easy, his burden light—such a burden as a pair of wings to a bird; they would be awkward, and troublesome, and useless if tied on; but as living parts of his body they are graceful and pleasing, and the instruments of flight toward heaven.